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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph Lutz on 06/05/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

(Claim 8)

At line 2 of the claim, please REPLACE the limitation "a store queue" with "a hardware store queue";

(Claim 11)

At line 2 of the claim, please REPLACE the limitation "a first processor" with "a first hardware processor";

At line 10 of the claim, please DELETE the word "speculative";

At lines 10-11 of the claim, please DELETE the phrase "at the time of retirement";

(Claim 14)

At line 2 of the claim, please REPLACE the limitation "means for tracking" with "hardware means for tracking";

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. In the office action mailed 02/06/2008, the examiner noted that claims 1-12 and 14-22 appear to be allowable if amended to overcome the 25 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. 101 rejections set forth the office action. The applicant, via amendment, has overcome these rejections and, therefore, the examiner has withdrawn the rejections. Claims 1-12 and 14-22 are allowable for the reasons indicated in the above-mentioned office action. Specifically, the prior art has not taught or render obvious using a reorder buffer field to indicate that a load instruction is to be checked at retirement by searching a load table to determine whether a store instruction invalidated the load instruction.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BENJAMIN P. GEIB whose telephone number is (571)272-8628. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alford Kindred can be reached on (571) 272-4037. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BPG/ 06/05/2008

Benjamin P Geib
Examiner
Art Unit 2181

/Tonia LM Dollinger/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2181